

6949

Testimony of Donna Tatsapaugh

In Opposition of HB:6949-An Act Concerning Childhood Vaccinations Public Health Committee Hearing
March 18, 2015

To Public Health Committee Members,

I am writing urging you not to support HB 6949 which requires parents who object to mandated vaccines on religious grounds to submit a notarized statement claiming that vaccination would be contrary to the religious beliefs of the child, and that they "have reviewed and understand evidence-based instructional material provided by the Department of Public Health regarding the risks to such child and to others of such child failing to receive adequate immunization."

I am opposed to mandates of this sort.

Also, I am already educated about vaccines and requiring a review of educational materials or agreeing to affirmations about risks of not vaccinating in order for one to exercise their religious exemption to vaccination is not only wrong, but unconstitutional.

HB 6949 infringes on people's religious beliefs and violates the First Amendment "free exercise" of religion. The state should not add substantive requirements for a parent to exercise a religious exemption to vaccination.

Again, I urge you not to support HB 6949.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Regards,
Donna Tatsapaugh